



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada

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For information

NOVA SCOTIA MASS SHOOTING OVERVIEW

For the Minister

ISSUE

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide an overview of Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) involvement to date in the investigation of the April 18–19, 2020, mass shooting in Nova Scotia (NS) that left 22 victims plus the gunman dead. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) issued a media release on June 4, 2020, updating the public on the investigation and identifying that three of the weapons found on the suspect were illegally obtained in the United States (US).

BACKGROUND

On Sunday morning of April 19, 2020, CBSA intelligence teams learned through media of an active shooter incident taking place in Colchester County, NS. Intelligence proactively researched the Intelligence Management System and the Integrated Customs Enforcement System with the intent to provide assistance to the RCMP as appropriate. Social media releases from the RCMP identified the shooter and stated that he was dressed in an RCMP uniform and driving a replica RCMP cruiser. CBSA systems checks revealed information on the suspect that included the shooter's name, addresses, licence plates, NEXUS card photograph, and suspected spouse's name. This information was proactively disclosed by the Region to the RCMP pursuant to section 107 of the *Customs Act*. In addition, an offer of further assistance was extended to the RCMP.

Preliminary CBSA findings

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CBSA investigation

Through information obtained from the RCMP, it was determined that three of the four firearms that were in the possession of the subject originated in the US and had not been lawfully imported into Canada.

The CBSA and the RCMP agreed to conduct a joint investigation in which the CBSA would lead the firearms-smuggling investigation and the RCMP would focus on investigating the mass shooting. On April 28, 2020, the Agency's Criminal Investigations Section in Halifax opened an investigation into the importation of these prohibited firearms and devices, and one RCMP member was assigned to assist.

The investigation remains ongoing.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

On June 4, 2020, the RCMP issued a media release indicating that the investigation into the firearms in the possession of the subject remains ongoing with domestic and international law enforcement partners. The media release confirmed that all of the firearms in the subject's possession (four) were obtained illegally, and that three of them were obtained illegally in the United States.

The CBSA has already publicly indicated that it has launched an investigation and is working with the RCMP. The June 4, 2020, RCMP media release may lead to queries directed to the Agency. However, as the investigation is ongoing, there is limited information that can be released. However, CBSA Communications has developed high-level media lines in preparation. CBSA and RCMP communications teams continue to work together.

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NEXT STEPS

The CBSA will rely largely on joint investigative efforts with the RCMP going forward to avoid duplication and to avoid risking negatively impacting either investigation. It is expected that, due to the scope and complexity of the RCMP's investigation, the investigation will move slowly and take considerable time. The Intelligence and Enforcement Branch will continue to provide appropriate updates.

Please note that I am available to discuss, or have CBSA officials brief your staff, at your convenience.



June 05, 2020

John Ossowski
President

c.c.: Mr. Rob Stewart, Deputy Minister
Public Safety Canada